



MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

U.S. Embassy, Manila, The Philippines

November 6, 2013

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.

MASSACHUSETTS TO HOLD SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold a special general election for U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, December 10, to fill the seat vacated upon the election of former Representative Ed Markey to the U.S. Senate.

You can register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot by mail, email or fax using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) online assistant at <http://www.fvap.gov/request/request-ma.html>. Do not forget to indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot (by mail, email or fax).

Uniformed Services personnel, their eligible family members and U.S. citizens residing overseas must submit an FPCA to request an absentee ballot. Please note you will not automatically receive a ballot, even if you voted in the November 6, 2012, General Election.

Voted ballots returned from within the United States or by fax or email must be received before 8 p.m. EDT on December 10, 2013. Voted ballots returned from outside the United States must be postmarked by December 10, 2013, and received by the election authority by December 20, 2013.

If you are concerned about not receiving your ballot in time to vote, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186). The online FWAB assistant is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/request/request-ma.html>. The FWAB is also available at military installations around the world.

Important Dates

FPCA request deadline	Before 12 p.m. EDT, December 9
Voted ballot received by election authority for ballots returned by fax or email	Before 8 p.m. EDT, December 10
Voted ballot received by election authority for ballots returned by mail from <i>within</i> the U.S.	Before 8 p.m. EDT, December 10

Voted ballot received by election authority for ballots returned by mail from <i>outside</i> the U.S.	Postmarked by: December 10 Received by: December 20
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To determine the status of your absentee ballot request once submitted, contact your local election office. You can find contact information for your voting jurisdiction at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleclk/clkidx.htm>.

Go to FVAP.gov to fill out and print your forms today! Additional information on the completion and submission of these forms is also available, as well as Massachusetts voter-specific information. Find a list of municipal contact information at <https://www.fvap.gov/r3/jurisdictions/MA> or <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleclk/clkidx.htm>.

For more information on FVAP or assistance with the absentee voting process, visit FVAP.gov, call FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584 (CONUS)/312-425-1584 (OCONUS) or email vote@fvap.gov. [Facebook.com/DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP) Twitter [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP)

The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (632) 301-2000. U.S. citizens needing to speak to the Embassy can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at ACSIInfoManila@state.gov or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current [Travel Warnings](#), including the [Travel Warning for the Philippines](#), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for the Philippines](#). For additional information, refer to ["A Safe Trip Abroad"](#) on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.